

FIRST UNITED CHURCH OF OAK PARK
25 JUNE 2017



An open community united in love and justice

PREPARING FOR WORSHIP

“So Hagar named the God who spoke to her, 'You are El Roi [the God who sees].’”
- Genesis 6:13

*Please stand in body or spirit. Please silence cell phones.

GATHERING MUSIC

I Love to Tell The Story

Anna Laura Page

OUR LIFE TOGETHER

Please sign and pass the red pew pad.

Lydia Mulkey

GATHERING AS GOD’S PEOPLE

*CALL TO WORSHIP

Britt Cox

In the midst of the struggle, you listen to our cries.

You are the God with the listening heart.

For those crying in fear, and those who look for signs, you see us and you care.

You are the God who watches faithfully.

You reveal blessing upon blessing.

Give us listening hearts to hear you, and faithful eyes to see your grace.

*HYMN 293

Sweet, Sweet Spirit

SWEET, SWEET SPIRIT

black hymnal

PRAYER FOR WHOLENESS

Clarence Jordan, founder of Koinonia Farm, on the Parable of the Lost Coin

SILENCE IS KEPT.

ASSURANCE OF LOVE

Reach out one hand to someone nearby. If they're willing, hold their hand or place a hand on their shoulder as we assure one another of God's love.

God has a sentimental attachment for you. Whether you like it or not, God loves you. And it does seem to me that if you're precious in God's sight, you ought to be precious in mine too.

*PASSING THE PEACE

The peace of Christ be with you.

And also with you.

LISTENING FOR GOD'S WORD TO US

TIME FOR SHARING

Alicia Reese

THE CONGREGATION WELCOMES NEW MEMBERS

PRESENTATION AND QUESTIONS

CONGREGATIONAL COVENANT

We welcome you into this community and promise to journey together with you in faith. We offer ourselves as siblings in Christ, committing ourselves to care for one another. We offer ourselves as partners in ministry and mission, working to further God's work everywhere. We offer ourselves as companions, joining each other as the Body of Christ, growing together in Christian faith and practice. By God's grace we share this covenant in the name of Jesus Christ who calls us to gather in God's name.

SONG OF ILLUMINATION *Listen to the Word that God Has Spoken*

IONA COMMUNITY



Lis-ten to the Word that God has spo-ken, Lis-ten to the One who is close at hand;



Lis-ten to the Voice be-hind cre - a-tion, Lis-ten ev-en if you don't un-der-stand.

READING

Genesis 21:8-21 (OT p. 17)

Britt Cox

SERMON

Seeing and Being Seen: Seen In the Struggle

Lura Honderich, Lizzie Maguire, Jake Levin

RESPONDING TO GOD'S WORD

* HYMN 423

Great Is Your Faithfulness

FAITHFULNESS

black hymnal

PRAYER OF DEDICATION

Lydia Mulkey

Offerings are a sacred act of worship. We invite you to use the green giving cards in the pew rack to celebrate what you've already given or to make an additional donation.

OFFERTORY

His Eye is on the Sparrow

Charles Gabriel

Lizzie Maguire

***DOXOLOGY**

OLD HUNDREDTH

Praise God from whom all blessings flow;
Praise Christ, all people here below.
Praise Holy Spirit evermore;
Praise Triune God whom we adore. Amen.

PRAYERS OF THE PEOPLE AND THE LORD'S PRAYER

Lydia Mulkey

As found in *The Cotton Patch Version of the Bible*, translated by Clarence Jordan

Father of us, O Spiritual One,
Your Name be truly honored.
Your Movement spread, your will prevail
Through earth, as through the heavens.
Grant us sustaining bread each day.
Forgive our debts as we forgive
The debts of all who cannot pay.
And from confusion keep us clear;
Deliver us from evil's sway.
For yours is the Movement, the power, and the praise forever. Amen.

GOING FORTH IN DEDICATION AND SERVICE

***HYMN 570**

We Shall Overcome

WE SHALL OVERCOME

black hymnal

***CHARGE AND BENEDICTION**

Alicia Reese

***BENEDICTION RESPONSE**

Let It Breathe on Me

Let it breathe on me, — let it breathe on me, — let the breath of the
Spi - rit breathe on me. Let it breathe on me, — let it
breathe on me, — let the breath of God now breathe on me.

SENDING MUSIC

Toccata Brillianta: We Will Glorify

Twila Paris, arr. Fred Bock

TODAY AT FIRST UNITED

TODAY'S FOURTH SUNDAY OFFERING benefits the First United Nursery School.

OUR GUEST ORGANIST today is Yollanda Bornhoff.

THIS WEEK BEGINS A THREE-WEEK SERMON SERIES entitled, "The One Who Sees," following the stories in Genesis of Hagar, Isaac, Abraham and Rebecca. Today, the youth who recently returned from work camp in Americus, Georgia kick off the series and lead the sermon talk-back following the service.

For the rest of the summer, each sermon will include talk-backs for community reflection and conversation. These will be an opportunity to see one another in the ways that God sees us.



PLEASE RECYCLE your bulletin in one of the bins near the Sanctuary exits.

JOIN THE DEACONS for prayer and anointing in the chapel following Worship.

HEARING AMPLIFICATION DEVICES--INCLUDING T-COIL CABLES, LARGE PRINT BULLETINS, BIBLES AND HYMNALS are available for use during worship. Please talk to a greeter to obtain these items and return the amplification device to the greeter. Large print bibles and hymnals should be returned to the table behind the middle pews.

EVENTS AND UPDATES

LET'S TALK: CHURCH COUNCIL MEMBERS AVAILABLE JULY 2

Do you have thoughts to share after reading the Action Planning Team report that was emailed/mailed? Church Council members will be available after worship on Sunday, July 2. Additional copies of the report are available on the elder desk.

CONGREGATIONAL MEETING JULY 9

A congregational meeting to vote on the dissolution of Rev. Dr. John Cole's call will be held after worship on Sunday, July 9, by which time the principal terms of the Separation Agreement will be communicated.

THIS WEEK: GENERAL SYNOD 2017

Please keep General Synod 2017, the 31st biannual gathering of the United Church of Christ, in your prayers when it meets from June 30 to July 4 in Baltimore. Keynote speeches will be delivered by author Glennon Doyle Melton, who spoke at First United a year ago, and by environmental activist Aaron Mair. Among the 14 "Resolutions of Witness" to be considered is one calling for "Participation with the Boy Scouts of America through Inclusive Scouting Programs." First United is one of seven churches who worked together to submit this resolution (a big thank you to Cate Readling!). For more information about General Synod, go to ucc.org/synod; updated news will be posted there throughout the five-day synod.

WANT TO BE A FURST ENGLISH LANGUAGE COMPANION? OF COURSE YOU DO!

The First United Refugee Support Team (FURST) is seeking volunteers who would be willing to be English language companions for the children of the Alsaad family during the summer months. Ideally, we'd like to be able to send two people once a week to work with Banen (7), Mujtaba (8), Abrar (12), and Ayat (13). All four kids are whip-smart and eager to learn and practice English.

If interested, please contact John Chapman-Rienstra (wolverienstra@gmail.com), Charlie Morris (cmorris91120@gmail.com), or Leah Beckwith (leahb44@ameritech.net).

NEXT SUNDAY, JULY 2

Sermon Series: "The One Who Sees" – Genesis 22:1-14

Moving from

words to witness
in our relationship with God,

individualism to intimate
fellowship in our relationship with other members of the church community,

charity to changing
structures in our relationship with the world.

WELCOME- We're glad you joined us for worship. Learn about First United:

- Visit the welcome desk in the lounge or the visitor table in the narthex to receive more information about the church and a gift to take home with you.
- Sign the registration pad when it's passed. Include your email to receive our weekly e-news and devotional!
- Speak with any greeter or minister or join us for coffee hour following worship.
- Contact Britt Cox at 708.386.5215 or bcox@firstunitedoakpark.com for information about Newcomers Gatherings and any additional questions.

ABOUT US - We are a union church of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the United Church of Christ. We seek to be an inclusive expression of Christ's body celebrating our diversity while finding our unity in Christ. We are a More Light/Open and Affirming congregation, committed to full inclusion of GLBTQ people in membership & ministry.

ABOUT WORSHIP - Worship is our time to praise and grow closer to God. Worship each week includes song, prayer, learning, silence and giving. If you have any questions about what we do, please ask a minister or a member.

WORSHIP WITH CHILDREN - We welcome all children to participate fully in worship. Age-appropriate worship activities and books are available as you enter the sanctuary. We offer safe, quality childcare and quiet play for children five and under in our nursery (just off the lounge). Accompanied by a parent, these children may leave after Time for Sharing.

RESTROOMS & WiFi - Accessible restrooms are located off the church lounge. Free Wireless Internet is available in all areas except the Sanctuary. Network: 'FirstGuest', password: 'FirstUnited'.

GIVING - Offering envelopes are in the pew racks. You can also give one time or recurring gifts online at www.firstunitedoakpark.com/giving.



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SUNDAY, JUNE 25

10:00 am Worship

11:00 am Evening Division Board meeting

MONDAY, JUNE 26

9:00 am CPM meeting (Presbytery)

6:30 pm CMA Justice & Witness mtg. (UCC)

TUESDAY, JUNE 27

5:00 pm Pro Musica Leadership meeting

7:00 pm Personnel committee meeting

7:00 pm Woodwind Quintet rehearsal

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 28

6:30 pm Summer Vespers Worship

THURSDAY, JUNE 29

1:00 pm Ecumenical Work Group (Presbytery)

FRIDAY, JUNE 30**SATURDAY, JULY 1****SUNDAY, JULY 2**

10:00 am Worship

CONTACT THE FIRST UNITED OFFICE MONDAY THROUGH FRIDAY 9 AM TO 5 PM**708.386.5215**

John Cole, Lead Pastor (ext. 101)

Britt Cox, Associate Pastor (ext. 105)

Lydia Mulkey, Minister of Education (ext. 103)

Alicia Reese, Coordinator of Youth & Children's Ministry

William Chin, Director of Music (ext. 108)

Michael Surratt, Organist

Donna Montgomery, Church Administrator (ext. 102)

Amanda Swanson, Administrative Assistant (ext. 100)

LynToya Pate, Financial Assistant (ext. 106)

Keith Liesse, Head Custodian

First United Church Nursery School

Prevail/Housing Forward

Oak Park River Forest Food Pantry

The Kid's Closet, children's clothing ministry

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